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The

NINETEEN-TWENTY EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT
OF NORTH AMERICA

45 WEST 18TH STREET NEW YORK CITY

Nineteen-Twenty Evangelistic Campaign

Time: January to Easter Sunday, April 4, 1920

Suggested Program for the Community

I. OBJECTIVE

All the church forces in the community co-operating to reach with the message of Christ every person in the community for whom the evangelical churches are spiritually responsible.

II. PROGRAM

1. *Cooperation*

The forces for a community program of evangelism should be marshalled by the combined Christian agencies of the community.

The efforts of the churches acting independently, even though their campaigns are simultaneous, will not reach the entire community because large numbers of people in every community are outside the recognized constituency of any one of the churches.

Wherever there is an effective county or city organization the churches of the entire

county or city should work out a unified program through that organization. If such an organization does not now exist, one should be set up powerful enough to command all the forces.

The twofold purpose of this community program of evangelism is:

a. To vitalize all of the churches by giving them the vision and inspiration of the whole task and by helping them to carry out an adequate program.

b. To reach all the unoccupied territory and unchurched residents in the community with the combined power of the evangelical forces.

2. *Survey*

Make a household survey of the entire community for the purpose of securing all the facts of religious preference and need.

For information about how to organize such a survey apply to the state survey organization of the Interchurch World Movement in your state. For cities of over 5,000 population apply to the supervisor of the city surveys, for communities under 5,000 to the supervisor of the rural surveys.

A Household Survey will furnish the most thorough and adequate preparation for the

evangelistic campaign, but its value will be almost wholly lost unless the information secured is followed up promptly by personal visitation and continuous cultivation.

3. *Pastoral and Lay Evangelism*

While every available effective agency should be utilized in this campaign, the chief emphasis is placed on pastoral and lay evangelism.

a. Each church is expected to inspire, train and utilize its own forces.

b. Inspire and train laymen for this work by promoting the "Win One Legion" or similar organization.

c. Gospel teams of laymen could be organized and widely used.

4. *Evangelistic Meetings*

a. Wherever practicable, it is recommended that the churches of the community plan their evangelistic meetings together, utilizing all of the strongest leaders of all the churches, both ministerial and lay, for this purpose.

b. Simultaneous meetings of all the churches in the community where union meetings are not practicable.

c. Noon-day meetings in theatres and shops.

d. Occasional united meetings for personal workers, for prayer, for reports of progress and for the perfecting of plans.

e. All church bells or chimes rung each day at noon as a reminder that the campaign is in progress and as a signal for all Christians in the community to pause for a moment of prayer for victory.

The suggestions for the individual church which follow may be applied to all of the churches in the community working together.

Suggested Program for the Individual Church

I. OBJECTIVE

To challenge each evangelical church to undertake during this period a definite and thorough campaign to reach with the message of Christ all for whom that church is spiritually responsible.

II. PROGRAM

A Period of Organization
A Period of Training
A Period of Visitation
A Period of Special Meetings

A Day of Acknowledgment, Palm Sunday, March 28

A Day of Ingathering, Easter Sunday, April 4

1. *A Period of Organization*

a. Prepare a complete membership and constituency roll of the church to include at least the following:

Present members.

Prospective members in the families of the church and Sunday school.

People who express a preference for the church.

Other people in the community assigned to the church as a result of the Household Survey.

In order that no one may be overlooked, compare this constituency roll with every record available in the church or community.

b. Complete the permanent organization of the church into units or groups.

Divide the entire list on the membership and constituency roll into units or groups, of about thirty individuals, or if the grouping is by families, of about five to ten families.

Appoint a leader for each group or unit.

Follow the official plan of your communion here.

This plan of organization is very important. It is the most effective way of developing and utilizing leadership and mobilizing the entire church for evangelism and all other lines of work.

c. Training Classes.

Organize personal workers' class or classes, including in the class membership the unit or group leaders, officers and teachers of the Sunday school, women's societies, men's organizations and other agencies.

The object of these groups is twofold: First, to inspire and train the leaders. Second, to prepare these leaders to, in turn, inspire and train the members of their groups or organizations for personal work.

Use a pamphlet or book on personal work as a basis of the discussions. Apply to your denominational leaders for materials they may recommend.

The following are recommended by the Interchurch World Movement and may be secured from the Sales Department:

Personal Evangelism, The Greatest Work in the World, *by G. Sherwood Eddy;* price 5 cents per copy; $2.75 per hundred. This pamphlet contains an inspiring appeal for personal work and outlines seven studies in evangelism.

Conversation Circles, *by Bishop Theodore S. Henderson,* 2 cents each; $1.50 per hundred. This pamphlet of six pages contains five short discussions on how to inspire people to talk about Christ.

Enlisting for Christ and the Church, *by Howard Agnew Johnston;* price, 75 cents in paper; $1.00 in cloth. This longer and more thorough course of study should be used where practicable. This book contains fifteen studies and covers the subject thoroughly.

d. Prayer.

Give prayer a central place in all plans and meetings.

Secure the enrolment of as many workers as possible in the Fellowship

of Intercession or other prayer organization approved by your communion. If your communion has no plan for enlisting and training intercessors, a pamphlet on the subject and enrolment blanks may be secured from The Interchurch World Movement.

Plan and circulate definite topics for intercession. Make large use of your church bulletin for this purpose.

Encourage the use of prayer cycles and lists and the circulation of literature on prayer and other devotional topics. Send for list of pamphlets and books.

2. *Period of Training*

a. Hold as many sessions of the Personal Workers' Training Class as practicable.

b. Organize classes for prospective church members. Follow the plan approved by your communion for preparing for church membership.

c. Give one night each week to meetings of the groups or units, each group or unit meeting by itself for prayer and to plan the work of the group.

3. *Period of Visitation*

This period may overlap the preceding and following periods:

a. A meeting of all the personal workers to assign lists of names and make other final preparations.

b. During the visitation hold a meeting each night for workers for report, for prayer, for reassignment of names, etc.

c. Two visitations are suggested wherever possible.

(1) A friendly visitation to prepare the way and remove difficulties.

(2) An evangelistic visitation for the purpose of presenting Christ and securing decision.

Individuals or families not won during this visitation should be followed up until a decision is reached.

d. Circulate literature on evangelism.

Secure supplies from your denominational offices.

"The Hearts of Men" is recommended. This booklet contains excerpts from D. S. Cairns' "The Army and Religion," with an introduction by G. Sherwood Eddy. It interprets the needs of men today and indicates the message needed to win them to Christ and the Church; 10 cents per copy.

4. *A Period of Special Meetings*

Time: Any period up to Easter, but preferably timed to include Holy Week. Even if evangelistic meetings have been held earlier in the season, special services during Holy Week are recommended.

a. Services every night with special features designed to attract and inspire those who have been visited during the days of the campaign.

b. Assign definite tasks during the entire period to all who have been in the personal workers' training classes.

5. *Acknowledgment Day, Palm Sunday, March 28*
   - *a.* Decision Day in the Sunday school, Young People's Organizations and church services.
   - *b.* All the services of the day planned with a view to leading people to decision to begin the Christian life, or to renew their vows.
   - *c.* Special music and other features to make the day memorable.

6. *Day of Ingathering, Easter Sunday, April 4*
   - *a.* Reception of new members.
   - *b.* Final effort to reach those who have not decided for Christ.
   - *c.* A communion service as the great crowning event of the day.

General Suggestions

I. ADAPTING THE PROGRAM

Churches of each communion will make such adaptations of this program as are necessary in conformity with the official plans of their communion.

The great thing is not absolute unanimity of program, but that every church shall do its utmost.

II. THE STEWARDSHIP AND LIFE WORK CAMPAIGNS and other activities of The Interchurch World Movement will be going forward during this period.

February is Stewardship month, culminating in a National Enrolment Day, February 22.

Life Enlistment Day is February 29, and special attention will be given this subject during March.

Both these campaigns will contribute powerfully to the Evangelistic Campaign and should be included in the plans.

III. THE BEGINNING, NOT THE END

While this particular campaign is timed to come to a climax at Easter, 1920, the great paramount work of the churches is continuous evangelism and the training of new recruits for the work of the church, the community and the world.

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